

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5131

To provide assistance to Special Olympics to support expansion of Special Olympics and development of education programs and a Healthy Athletes Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CANTOR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. REGULA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mr. EHLERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on International Relations and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide assistance to Special Olympics to support expansion of Special Olympics and development of education programs and a Healthy Athletes Program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Special Olympics Sport
5 and Empowerment Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Special Olympics celebrates the possibilities
4 of a world where everybody matters, everybody
5 counts, every person has value, and every person has
6 worth.

7 (2) The Government and the people of the
8 United States recognize the dignity and value the
9 giftedness of children and adults with an intellectual
10 disability.

11 (3) The Government and the people of the
12 United States are determined to end the isolation
13 and stigmatization of people with an intellectual dis-
14 ability.

15 (4) For more than 36 years, Special Olympics
16 has encouraged skill, sharing, courage, and joy
17 through year-round sports training and athletic com-
18 petition for children and adults with intellectual dis-
19 abilities.

20 (5) Special Olympics provides year-round sports
21 training and competitive opportunities to 1,500,000
22 athletes with intellectual disabilities in 26 sports and
23 plans to expand the joy of participation through
24 sport to hundreds of thousands of people with intel-
25 lectual disabilities within the United States and
26 worldwide over the next 5 years.

1 (6) Special Olympics has demonstrated its abil-
2 ity to provide a major positive effect on the quality
3 of life of people with intellectual disabilities, improv-
4 ing their health and physical well-being, building
5 their confidence and self-esteem, and giving them a
6 voice to become active and productive members of
7 their communities.

8 (7) In society as a whole, Special Olympics has
9 become a vehicle and platform for breaking down ar-
10 tificial barriers, improving public health, changing
11 negative attitudes in education, and helping athletes
12 overcome the prejudice that people with intellectual
13 disabilities face in too many places.

14 (8) The Government of the United States en-
15 thusiastically supports Special Olympics, recognizes
16 its importance in improving the lives of people with
17 intellectual disabilities, and recognizes Special Olym-
18 pics as a valued and important component of the
19 global community.

20 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are to—

21 (1) provide support to Special Olympics to in-
22 crease athlete participation in and public awareness
23 about the Special Olympics movement;

24 (2) dispel negative stereotypes about people
25 with intellectual disabilities;

1 (3) build athletic and family involvement
2 through sport; and

3 (4) promote the extraordinary gifts of people
4 with intellectual disabilities.

5 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS.**

6 (a) EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Edu-
7 cation may award grants to, or enter into contracts or co-
8 operative agreements with, Special Olympics to carry out
9 the following:

10 (1) Activities to promote the expansion of Spe-
11 cial Olympics, including activities to increase the
12 participation of individuals with intellectual disabil-
13 ities within the United States.

14 (2) The design and implementation of Special
15 Olympics education programs, including character
16 education and volunteer programs that support the
17 purposes of this Act, that can be integrated into
18 classroom instruction and are consistent with aca-
19 demic content standards.

20 (b) INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of
21 State may award grants to, or enter into contracts or co-
22 operative agreements with, Special Olympics to carry out
23 the following:

1 (1) Activities to increase the participation of in-
2 dividuals with intellectual disabilities in Special
3 Olympics outside of the United States.

4 (2) Activities to improve the awareness outside
5 of the United States of the abilities and unique con-
6 tributions that individuals with intellectual disabil-
7 ities can make to society.

8 (c) HEALTHY ATHLETES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
10 Human Services may award grants to, or enter into
11 contracts or cooperative agreements with, Special
12 Olympics for the implementation of on-site health
13 assessments, screening for health problems, health
14 education, data collection, and referrals to direct
15 health care services.

16 (2) COORDINATION.—Activities under para-
17 graph (1) shall be coordinated with private health
18 providers, existing authorized programs of State and
19 local jurisdictions, or the Department of Health and
20 Human Services, as applicable.

21 (d) LIMITATION.—Amounts appropriated to carry
22 out this section shall not be used for direct treatment of
23 diseases, medical conditions, or mental health conditions.
24 Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to
25 limit the use of non-Federal funds by Special Olympics.

1 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION AND ANNUAL REPORT.**

2 (a) APPLICATION.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant,
4 contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection
5 (a), (b), or (c) of section 3, Special Olympics shall
6 submit an application at such time, in such manner,
7 and containing such information as the Secretary of
8 Education, Secretary of State, or Secretary of
9 Health and Human Services, as applicable, may re-
10 quire.

11 (2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, an application
12 under this subsection shall contain the following:

13 (A) ACTIVITIES.—A description of activi-
14 ties to be carried out with the grant, contract,
15 or cooperative agreement.

16 (B) MEASURABLE GOALS.—Information on
17 specific measurable goals and objectives to be
18 achieved through activities carried out with the
19 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

20 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of
22 any funds under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section
23 3, Special Olympics shall agree to submit an annual
24 report at such time, in such manner, and containing
25 such information as the Secretary of Education, Sec-

1 retary of State, or Secretary of Health and Human
2 Services, as applicable, may require.

3 (2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, each annual re-
4 port under this subsection shall describe the degree
5 to which progress has been made toward meeting the
6 goals and objectives described in the applications
7 submitted under subsection (a).

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated—

10 (1) for grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
11 ments under section 3(a), \$5,500,000 for fiscal year
12 2005, and such sums as may be necessary for each
13 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years;

14 (2) for grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
15 ments under section 3(b), \$3,500,000 for fiscal year
16 2005, and such sums as may be necessary for each
17 of the 4 succeeding fiscal years; and

18 (3) for grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
19 ments under section 3(c), \$6,000,000 for each of fis-
20 cal years 2005 through 2009.

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